

Soldier Hollow party lands the 4 organizers in hot water

Bash caused \$5,600 worth of damages to Olympic building

By Gib Twyman
Deseret News staff writer

WASATCH COUNTY — Four Utah County men are facing the music after a party at the Soldier Hollow Olympic venue involving hundreds of college-age youths and thousands of dollars in damages.

Charges of third-degree felony criminal mischief and criminal trespass, a class B misdemeanor, were filed Tuesday in 4th District Court by Wasatch County deputy attorney Thomas L. Low against Tyler Sabine, 19; Lindsay Eric Balser, 18; Brandon Dente, 18; and Jeffry Wellman, 18.

The charges stem from a midnight party Sept. 22, which Wasatch County deputy

Sheriff Wayne Winterton said was attended by approximately 200 college students, mostly from Brigham Young University and Utah Valley State College.

Dubbed "The Big Pimpin' in the Woods," partygoers were charged \$3 a head. The bash caused approximately \$5,600 in damages to the communications building at the 2002 Winter Games cross-country/biathlon site, Winterton said.

Apparently the four Utah County men spotted the building while 4-wheeling near Cascade Springs, west of Soldier Hollow.

"They said they thought it was a 'secret government building out in the woods,'" Winterton said. "They sneaked in, got this idea of a party and began putting it together later."

Winterton happened upon the party scene while making routine rounds down Charleston Road, between Midway and Charleston. He spotted a car on Tate Lane, under reconstruction at the time, which leads into Soldier Hollow.

"It was an old Chevy Celebrity beater car," Winterton said.

It was filled with youths.

"I said to myself, 'That's strange.' I drove on, thinking I'd come back to see if they needed help," he said.

Winterton hadn't driven far before encountering another car full of young people. When he passed a third car by the historic Tate Barn, he said, "I'm goin' 'hmmm.'"

The deputy rounded a bend and saw "15 to 20 cars" driving the cross-country competition track. It had rained and snowed heavily that night and the runs were muddy.

"It was like NASCAR out there. Cars slipping and sliding everywhere," Winterton said.

Driving under an overpass that is part of the competition track into the open area of Soldier Hollow, Winterton saw "100 more cars."

Driving toward the communications

building, he said he heard cries of "Sheriff's coming."

"There was a mass exodus. I saw stereo equipment flying off the balcony. Office furniture. Chairs — nice, \$700 chairs," Winterton said.

"Now, I'm the lone soldier out there, so I call for backup," Winterton said.

Wasatch County deputy sheriffs Lance Christensen and David Laventure arrived. They helped seal Tate Lane and an upper road leading from the complex to Stringtown Road and Midway.

"I'm guessing we had 80 cars backed up in a long line," Winterton said. "We field-carded everybody."

But the sheriff's department only sought to formally charge organizers. Winterton's investigation took him to Ogden, Salt Lake and Utah County.

Three first names kept surfacing: Brandon, Tyler and Eric.

Winterton was tipped to a Tyler working at a cell-phone business at "one of the

malls in Provo."

Winterton confronted the young man, who denied participation. Winterton said he didn't believe his story. He gave the youth his card.

"If your memory improves, call me," Winterton said.

That was Friday, Oct. 27. The following Monday, Sabine, Balser, Dente and Wellman walked into the Wasatch County attorney's office and turned themselves in.

"They'd talked over the weekend and said the sheriff was hot on their trail. They said their consciences were bothering them, and they weren't sleeping well. They said, 'After you talk to us, your investigation's over,'" Winterton said.

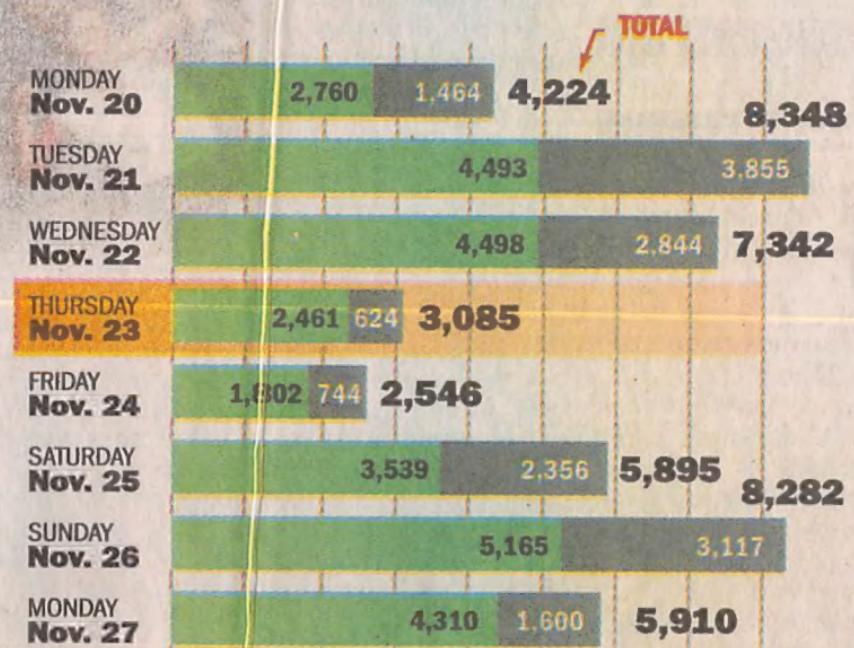
The four men, none of whom presently attends college, probably will "be dealt with with some leniency," Winterton said.

"None of them has been in trouble before. They basically strike you as clean-cut kids who made some really dumb decisions," Winterton said.

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Holiday travelers

Delta Air Lines
Estimated number of passengers boarding flights
at the Salt Lake City International Airport



SOURCE: Salt Lake City Department of Airports

Residents feast and learn of TRAX job, shutoff plans

Construction will begin Nov. 27 on an east section

By Diane Urbani

Deseret News staff writer

A dozen Salt Lake families scooped up earplugs, toy TRAX cars and eye masks Wednesday night in preparation for some post-Thanksgiving disturbances on their street. They also dug in to macaroni and cheese, fried chicken and ice cream, compliments of SLC Rail Constructors.

It was a dinner and question-and-answer session at Chuck-a-

construction can be fun," said Katie Parker, SLC Rail public information specialist.

"Reach 4," the last leg of light-rail construction, is about to start up 500 South, from 900 East to the University of Utah. And since SLC Rail will also lay a new water main beneath the street, water for residents of the half-mile stretch will be shut off at least a couple of times in the next three months.

Construction will be under way on the Monday after the Thanksgiving weekend, and "our crews start at 7 a.m., work 10 hours a day, six days a week," said SLC Rail manager John Zehner. So yes, it will be noisy on Saturday mornings in the neighborhood, he admitted.

Project manager Bob Clements said the light-rail line isn't scheduled to be finished until Septem-

Mother Nature."

Parker, as she handed out the earplugs, acknowledged that the upper 500 South residents would be at the mercy of the construction crews. She held up her red cellular phone and repeated the 24-hour hotline number anyone can use: 556-TRAX (8729).

During the water-main work between now and January, water for each household on the six-block stretch, from 900 East to University Street, will be turned off for two to four hours at a time. Residents will be notified in advance of the shutoffs, Parker promised.

Unlike the first legs along 400 South, this phase of TRAX construction affects only homes, not shops or restaurants. During the minimum 14 months of work, the

Sub for Santa is looking for sponsors

Deseret News Sub for Santa 2000 is in full swing, but there's one little problem. The phones aren't exactly ringing off the hook.

Linda Woodard, Deseret News Sub for Santa coordinator, is concerned that people may feel that Christmas is a long way off and they have time to think later about charitable giving.

The Deseret News Sub for Santa program is part of the Community Christmas Council for Salt Lake County, consisting of Deseret News Sub for Santa, the Salvation Army, KUTV 2 News Angel Tree, Catholic Community Services Gift of the Drummer and U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots.

Deseret News Sub for Santa has families with two, three, four, five and more children. All live in Salt Lake County. Organizers sugge-